Dr. Pierce
HIS PREACHING
Exemplified in
HIS PRACTICE.

OR,

An Antidote to the poiſon of a ſurrilous and Libellous Pamphlet

Sent by N. G. *to a Friend in* London,

and Printed without Licenſe.

In a Letter from a Friend of Truth and Juſtice unto a Worthy Divine of Cambrige.

Printed in the year 1663.

Dr. Pierce

SIR,

THough I am yet a ſtranger to your Perſon, I have heard ſo much of your Integrity and candour, and zeal for God and all good men, that I cannot but believe you will think your ſelf concern'd in the news which at preſent I mean to ſend you. It will ſuggeſt an opportunity of doing ſome right to the noleſs injured then excellent Dr. *Pierce*, Preſident of S. *Mary Magdalen* College in *Oxford*. How great a bleſſing his Example and Government have been unto that flouriſhing Foundation, ſince his Prince's favour and his own eminency of merit fix'd him there, they that envied all have been ſo unable to conceal, that attempting oft to find a fault, where their utmoſt malice had not wit enough to deſcry one, they thought fit at laſt to accuſe his vertues, and in ſtead of blaſting his matchleſs reputation, have by that very project undone their own. The *Terræ Filii* (who miſtake it for a part of their office to revile Authority, and be factiouſly Scurrilous,) had a deſign to traduce him this laſt *Act*, (as they did, to ſome purpoſe, many more of great Rank, beſides the *King* himſelf, and my *Lord* of *London*.) But the one of them was ſo loudly hiſt and exploded for his paines, that we could not well underſtand by what he had a mind to expoſe himſelf. The other, with an impudence great as his profanation, in a place no leſs Sacred then S. *Mary*'s Church, and before an aſſembly of both *Univerſities*, and other perſons of quality, ſpoiled the *Ballad* I am here incloſing, by turning ſuch plain *Eng-*

liſh into worſe *Latin*, and not fearing to abuſe the *Text* and *Sermon* both together, ſtill concluded his ribaldry with an [*Ab initio non fuit Sic.*] Ought it not to be for a lamentation, that a *Sermon* made publick by moſt expreſs command from his *Majeſtie*, and for its extraordinary worth and uſefulneſs tranſlated into foreign languages, & countreys abroad, ſhould be thus ſet up as a Mark at home, for moſt unclean & invenom'd Tongues to ſhoot their arrows at (even bitter words,) whilſt the *Romaniſts* themſelves were but examining their quiver for much more civil and Chriſtian Shafts? That God's Word and Servant ſhould be thus blaſphemouſly trampled on by Profeſſors of the Religion they preſume ſo to ſhame, and reſolve to wound through one of it's ſtouteſt Champion's ſides, rather then allow him the barely-juſt honour of having preach't and publiſh't it's vindication? Others there are, who madly ſpurning at the bonds which they know not how to break or to caſt off from them, are ſo vext at the ſtrictneſs of his impartial and Chriſtian diſcipline, that (like the proud enraged waters, ſtill foaming againſt the Banks which reſtrain their Inſolency,) finding how much he hath leſſen'd the Drunkard's company, they would needs make him their Song, and be reveng'd upon him in rhyme. So much of it as hath been gathered piece-meale, I here preſent unto your view; when I ſhall firſt have aſſur'd you, that the cutting down of the *Walnut-Tree*, objected in the fourth Stanza, was not by command of the *Preſident*, but, without his knowledge, by order of the *Burſars*, (who are entruſted by the *College* with affaires of that nature;) much leſs is the *Bowling-green* made a *Turnip-garden* (as ſome *Cambridge*-men and others, whoſe curioſity was tempted by the confidence of that report, to let their own eyes undeceive them, can abundantly teſtify:) though (for very weighty reaſons,

reaſons, and upon ſerious deliberation,) it was voted down by the farr major part of the whole Society; which is the very ſame power that does commonly leaſe out the *Colledge Lands*, and ſure much rather may freely diſpoſe of their Recreations. All elſe here mentioned (by ſuch as have hated to be reform'd, and would not chuſe the fear of the Lord,) was apparently done in ſuch perfect conformity to the *Statutes* of the *College*, the *Canons* of the *Church*, and the *Law* of the *Land*, that if I had not before told you ſo, you would have concluded this charge to have proceeded either from the *Ale-houſe*, or the *Antipodes*. And therefore I leave you for a while, to reade and pitty theſe *Poetaſters*, who thus have gratified the *Papiſts*, and ſham'd themſelves.

NEar to the Ford *or'e which an Aſſe,*
Or an Ox *at leaſt did paſs,*
And where the once bleſs't Magdalen
A Sinner *is* poſſeſs't *agen,*
The man that ſets up Innovation
By th' Primitive Rule of Reformation,
And preach't *down* Poperie *too in hope*
To be in time Himſelf *a* Pope,
Makes new Religious Modes to grow,
Which from the Beginning were nothing So.

Demyes, and Fellows too, they ſay,
Are in the Chappel brought to pray,
As often as the Organs blow:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

The Founder's Laws are ſo ſet up,
That Scholars when they dine and ſup,
Muſt bandy Latin *to and fro:*
But from the Beginning it was not So.

The Tree which Wallnuts forth did ſhoot,
Is voted down both branch and root;
And where Bowls ran, there Turnips grow:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

Demyſhips *which were* bought *and* ſold,
Cannot now *be had for* Gold,
And Things call'd Merits currant *goe:*
But from the Beginning it was not So.

Fellowſhips *eke are* nothing worth
Which eightſcore Pieces *did bring forth,*
And a Gratuity *too, I trow:*
But from the Beginning it was not So.

A Bellyful *now for a* Feaſt *muſt ſuffice,*
Whilſt by an Abatement of Plumbroth *and* Pyes
Men are taught to be Temperate: But *yet we know*
That from the Beginning it was not So.

Depraved

Depraved manners now muſt be
Reform'd by Eaſter-Scrutiny,
Where none muſt his Accuſer know:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

In time of Term 'tis lately ſaid
That weekly Preachments muſt be made,
Whether the Preacher will or no:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

Gold is now wreſted from the Fiſts
Of all the late Spurroyalliſts
Sent Priſ'ners to the Tower, as though
From the Beginning it had been So.

The Grammar-School hath alſo cauſe
To ſay New Lords do make new Laws;
Though Busby's *followers needs muſt know*
That from the Beginning it was not So.

Amongſt the other modern Faſhions,
All men are brought to Diſputations,
Both great and ſmall, from Top to Toe:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

If a good Fellow *be* Maudlin *drunk*,
Speak verba Brigosa *or keep a* Punck,
He straight must out of Commons *goe*:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

If thereupon he make Appeals
For having fasted *all those Meals*,
He never must have Commons *moe*:
But from the Beginning it was not So.

AND now, Sir, I hope you do not imagine that Satan's Journymen have in earnest so farr befriended Mr *President* as to give you a perfect catalogue of the numerous Reformations which he hath wrought; and which however stomack't at by the Scandalous and incorrigible, are by Them that sincerely love God and Goodness lookt upon with great kindness & veneration, I will add, with Thanksgiving unto so Exemplary a *Governor*, who under God is the Author of them. To reckon up his Contrivances and Methods of advancing the College Interest and honour, and the many ways he hath studyed of promoting piety and learning within the walls he hath adorned with rich patterns of both, would make my Letter become a volume. That I be not so tedious, let me desire you to inform your self as well of the Clemency as Justice which hath been shewn to Dr *Yerbury*, out of the Narrative that was printed for private use, (if at least you can come by a Copy of it,) whilst I give you no more Accompt of the Drunkard's Darling then will consist with my own and the Carrier's haste.

This

This overgrown Batchelor of Arts, nicknam'd a Doctor, having an early ambition to climb above his betters (the first temptation, wise men think, to his other crimes,) did disloyally scrape and cringe to *Cromwell*'s Vicechancellor for a Degree, and (as if he had at the same instant bid defiance to authority, when he bow'd thus low to court-Usurpers,) at the election of the President he earnestly endeavour'd to frustrate the Letters of the *King*, affirming to the face of the then Bishop of *London*, that he could not vote for whom he thought *worthiest*, (however *sworn* so to do,) because the *King* in those letters had *commanded* him to do it. Yet so farr was the President from loving *Yerbury* the less, that he seemed to favour him much the more. I do not mean the more for his Enmity to the *King*, but for opposing his Removal to *Oxford*, who had lately set up his Rest in *Kent*. Insomuch as the President hath often said, That *if he had ever broken his Oath by not executing the Statutes*, or *by shewing partiality to any member of the College*, *Dr.* Yerbury *was the man, out of Lenity to whom he had so offended.* I cannot give a better instance then in the several gross Cheats and Defraudations, which in the President's first Audit he could not chuse but discover in Dr. *Yerbury*. For in a Bill (at one time) of above *Ten pounds*, he did not only give an *unstatutable* Accompt, but an Accompt so *sadly Scandalous*, that neither the *President* Dr. *Oliver*, nor the *Vice-President* Mr. *Foreman*, were able to write their *Approbations*. Which although Dr. *Pierce* who succeeded Dr. *Oliver* was *not able not to observe* in his very first entrance upon his Office, (which fortun'd to be in a time of Audit,) yet he was able to *forgive* it, *and pass it by*, without compelling him to refund it, (as by Statute he should have done,) for fear an Act of meer *Justice* should

be miſtaken for *Revenge*, by being done upon a man who had been againſt him. Thus one crime in Dr. *Yerbury* had made it ſafe for him to commit many more. For, as then it did appear by another Bill (of *nine pounds* wanting *three pence*,) he had pocketed up the *College mony*, of which he gave *no Accompt*, yea he *publickly confeſſed* (when an *Accompt* was required of him) that he was utterly *unable* to give up *any*. In which caſe, notwithſtanding there was *Furtum notabile*, which according to Statute was to be puniſhed with *Expulſion*, beſides the reſtitution of *ſo much mony*; yet ſo tender was the Preſident of this unthankfull man's honour and ſafety too, ſo unwilling to be doing *Corrective* Juſtice immediately after his Inſtalment, eſpecially on a perſon who had oppos'd his being there, (ſuch was the benefit of offending againſt a Mercifull man, who took a great delight in forgiving Enemies,) that making the beſt of ſo bad a matter, he only made him make Reſtitution, not of *all the whole Summe*, but of *leſs then half*. Would you not think that ſo much goodneſs ſhould have led this Fellow to better life? at leaſt to gratitude towards a Governor who had been ſo *exceſſively ſparing* to him? Indeed he promiſed no leſs when he proteſted his *Amazement* at ſo much Goodneſs. But what can be looked for from one who at once is a *Cromwellian* and an *Italianized Doctor*? Had I time to ſhew at large how he hath taken all occaſions to affront and revile his obliging Governor, (to whom he ſwore due Reverence and Obedience;) how he hath all along conſpir'd with a Factious Party in the College, whom *Thomas Goodwin* left behind him *unconverted to the King*, and whom the *King* hath ſuffered there by his gracious *Act of Oblivion only*; how, with *them*, he hath acted againſt the *Welfare* and *Peace* of that noble College, eſpecially for the ſupporting of the *Maudlintide Market*, buying and ſelling of

Reſig-

Reſignations, and of Suffrages in Elections, (for the putting down of which this Preſident will be thank't in the next Generation, though he is envyed for it in this;) how he that charged good Subjects with diſloyalty, did ſcruple to vote againſt a Regicide, whom yet he baſely *underboard* had *diſcovered* to be ſuch; how he hath impudently *boaſted* of his *Diſſimulation*, confeſſed *Slanders and Lyes* which he was proud not to retract; how he ſhew'd himſelf *void* of *common honeſty*, by *Embezelling* the *Revenue* of that *charitable place*, which had ſo long allow'd him *bread*, and yet was ſo immodeſt as to pretend he had a right to a *place* of *Truſt*; firſt contending for a *Burſarſhip*, to gratifie his *Avarice*; then for the office of a *Vice-preſident*, to ſtop the mouth of his *Ambition*; I ſay, had I time to enlarge on theſe, and on a very great number of other Crimes, which are as notorious as they are loathſome to ſuch as knew him in the College, you would admire at their Impudence who have diſhonour'd themſelves by his Commendations, and though you never had heard of his *multiplied* [redacted], yet you would need nothing more to make you perfectly convinc't, that there were *too many cauſes* of his *Expulſion*.

Breaches of Oath

Leaving him to repentance, and his Abettors to reproch, and you to make what uſe you pleaſe of this ſhort Intelligence, I crave the favour of your acquaintance, (at leaſt for his ſake, in our Zeal to whoſe cauſe we ſo well agree,) and your favorable leave to write my ſelf,

Your affectionate Servant

J. F.